

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

**MATTHEW D VAN DYKEN**

Claimant

**APPEAL NO: 14A-UI-01245-ST**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**DEJAGER CUSTOM POWERWASHING INC**

Employer

**OC: 12/08/13**

**Claimant: Respondent (1)**

Section 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Protest

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The employer appealed a department decision dated January 24, 2014 reference 01 that held it failed to file a timely protest regarding claimant's employment separation on July 26, 2013, and benefits are allowed. A telephone hearing was held on February 25, 2014. The claimant did not participate. Alex DeJager, Owner, and Ashley DeJager, witness, participated for the employer.

**ISSUE:**

Whether the employer filed a timely protest.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge having heard the witness testimony and having considered the evidence in the record finds: The claimant filed an unemployment claim effective December 8, 2013. The department mailed a notice of claim to the employer's address of record on December 11 with a protest due date of December 21 (Saturday) that is extended to the next working day, Monday, December 23, 2013. The employer submitted a protest on January 8, 2014.

Although the employer opens the mail, it has an accountant who comes to the business about every two weeks to handle certain matters. The accountant submitted the employer protest.

Claimant was called at the telephone number he provided on the Appeals C2T phone record system. He did not answer and there was no recording where a message could be left.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code section 96.6-2 provides in pertinent part:

2. Initial determination. A representative designated by the director shall promptly notify all interested parties to the claim of its filing, and the parties have ten days from the date of mailing the notice of the filing of the claim by ordinary mail to the last known address to protest payment of benefits to the claimant.

Another portion of this same Code section dealing with timeliness of an appeal from a representative's decision states that such an appeal must be filed within ten days after notification of that decision was mailed. In addressing an issue of timeliness of an appeal under that portion of this Code section, the Iowa Supreme Court held that this statute prescribing the time for notice of appeal clearly limits the time to do so, and that compliance with the appeal notice provision is mandatory and jurisdictional. Beardslee v. IDJS, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979).

The administrative law judge considers the reasoning and holding of that court in that decision to be controlling on this portion of that same Iowa Code section which deals with a time limit in which to file a protest after notification of the filing of the claim has been mailed. The employer has not shown any good cause for not complying with the jurisdictional time limit. Therefore, the administrative law judge is without jurisdiction to entertain any appeal regarding the separation from employment.

The administrative law judge concludes that the employer failed to file a timely protest within the ten-day period required by law. The protest delay was due to an internal matter of waiting to have an accountant handle it that is not a good legal cause.

**DECISION:**

The department decision dated January 24, 2014, reference 01, is affirmed. The employer failed to file a timely protest, and the department decision remains in force and effect.

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Randy L. Stephenson  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

rls/pjs